D-7509

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE. S. B. D.

S.1, Special Branch

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
REGISTERED
File No. 7509
S. B. 5/36

Date August 24, 1936

Subject Newspaper reports alleging that ronins had coerced proprietors of cigarette shops to purchase an article.

Made by D.I. Sih Tse-liang Forwarded by

On August 17, 1936, the Social Daily News (社會日報), with an office on Ningpo Road, published an article alleging that ronins had coerced proprietors of cigarette shops to purchase an article supplied by them under pain of being accused of "resisting xx and boycotting xx goods."

Discreet enquiries at various cigarette shops show that the article in question is the "Rohto" Eye Water, manufactured by the Yamada Pharmaceutical Company, Osaka, Japan. Proprietors of the shops, when approached, admitted that about two months ago, three persons - two Chinese and one Japanese - visited their shops and requested them to act as sales agents for this medicine. The majority of the proprietors showed reluctance to accept the offer but the callers insisted upon leaving about one dozen bottles of this medicine at each shop in case some persons might desire to purchase it. As far as can be ascertained, no threats were used by the callers to enforce their request.

The only sales agency for the "Rohto" Eye Water is the Toa Company, Ltd., Shanghai, 339 Honan Road, and it is sold at 22 cents per bottle.

Sih Tse-liang
D. I.

D.C. (Crime & Special Branches)

DBR 2578

File 4.12

SHPD COMMISSIONER (CRIME BRANCH)

August 17, 1936. Morning Translation.

Sin Wan Pao publishes the following letter written by one Chin Pao Tan (金寶坦) :-

CIGARETTE SHOPS COMPELLED BY RONINS TO UNDERTAKE SALE OF AN EYE REMEDY

A man of a certain nation, speaking fluent Mandarin, has been visiting local cigarette shops to compel them to act as agents for the sale of a kind of liquid medicine for the cure of sore eyes. This is intolerable.

Our Government has already incurred huge losses owing to smuggling and this liquid medicine may be smuggled goods too. It is to be feared that this medicine may be harmful to eyes.

It is said that several shops have been compelled to act as agents for the sale of the liquid medicine, failing which they would have to visit the Consulate of a certain nation. Chinese people should refrain from buying this medicine. Our Government is not powerful enough to deal with this Consulate, but we can refuse to buy this eye medicine.

I advise all brethren to use native products.

Social Daily News (社會日報) published the following comment on August 15 :-

The other day our reporter visited some thirty cigarette shops and obtained the following information :-

Owing to the strict measures adopted against dealing in smuggled goods, local cigarette shops have to exercise great care when buying sundry goods. Well-organized ronins have asked cigarette shops to act as agents for the sale of their goods. As some cigarette shops agreed to take up the business, the ronins became very active and began to insist that every shop should sell their shops.

Should a shop refuse to sell the goods, the ronins would visit the shop again on the following day and compel the shop to accept the business. If the shops again refuse, they would be accused of resisting XX and boycotting XX goods. The ronins would say: "Beware. If you reject the offer, action will be taken against you. We will not allow you to do any business in future". Most of the owners of cigarette shops are timid and had to accept the offer.

Compulsion of Chinese people to deal in XX goods is much prevalent in Kiangsu and Chekiang. Both our Government and our people should find a remedy. We must refrain from buying such goods.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY.
No. D 7509.
Date 17 / 8 / 36

2

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Report of S.I. filed under D.7509.

S.I. DAR 1878.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
17 AUG. 1936
SHANGHAI

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(CRIME BRANCH)